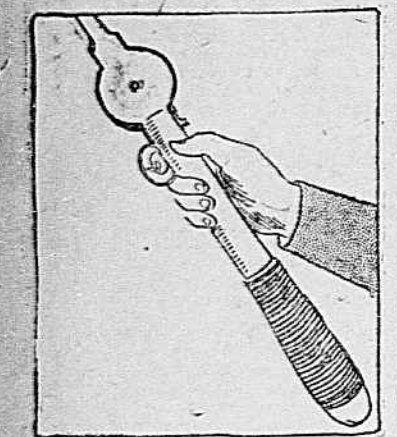


USEFUL DEVICES WITH PATENTS.

Some New Inventions Which are Worth Knowing About.

Whirling up a fish line with a gamey fish at the outer end of the line is a task which cannot be accomplished rapidly with the style of reel in common use, and often this inability to manipulate the line with ease causes the loss of the fish at the critical moment, not to mention the difficulty of playing the fish and giving attention to the reel at the same time. In the reel shown in next device which will take care of the line without attention on the part of the angler. Inside the grip is a spiral

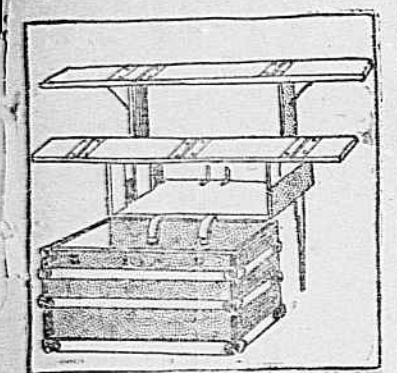


TRIGGER-ACTUATED REEL FOR FISH RODS.

spring, which actuates a central rod, the latter supporting a cog-wheel geared to a train of cogs. At the opposite end of this train is the reel on which the line is wound, the spring tending always to wind up the line. In placing the line on the reel it is necessary to wind up the spring by revolving the reel, the latter being held against backward movement by a spring ratchet. This ratchet is controlled by the trigger protruding from the grip, and as soon as the end of the line is attached to the reel a pull on the trigger will cause the reel to revolve and take up the line. To play out the line, all that is necessary is to pull on it, which winds up the spring again and fixes it to take up the slack as soon as the trigger is pulled. Robert M. Ray, of New Castle, Pa., is the inventor.

New Salesman's Trunk.

The trunk shown herewith is designed especially for the use of salesmen, and has been patented by Max Horvitch, of Forest City, Pa. Very often a salesman will enter a store with his samples and will have no convenient or adequate place in which to exhibit them to the buyer. In such an instance the salesman is controlled by the store owner, and is often caused the goods to look shop-worn, and lessens their attractiveness, to say nothing of delaying the buyer in the selection of the goods he wishes. Also, in gathering



COMPACT AND CHEAP FIRE ESCAPE.

of Williamsport, Pa., to design the flexible ladder shown in the accompanying picture. The manner of mounting the apparatus is easily seen, a recess being formed underneath the ladder and a pin, which can be placed in a box on the floor if it is not convenient to cut an opening in the wall. At the rear of the compartment three bolts are secured, and to these the cables of the ladder are firmly attached. At intervals along the cables the rungs of the ladder are placed, the whole being wound on a light reel and stored in the compartment, with a door in front, which closes and hides the apparatus. When it becomes necessary to utilize the ladder it is only the work of a moment to toss the reel out of the window, thus providing a ladder on which descent can be made in case of fire, and then on the single rope fire-escape so often provided.

Pneumatic Life-Saving Apparatus.

The invention here shown speaks for itself, and its advantages in saving lives in case of a wreck can easily be seen. It is designed either to convey a person among the equipments of a vessel or to be stationed near dangerous rocks along the coast, and not only provides a means of support for those in the water, but also affords a supply of food and water to maintain life until aid arrives. There is a central compartment in which the food and water are placed, to which access is



COMBINED TRUNK AND DISPLAY SHELVES.

on the samples the salesman is able to overlook some article which has been laid in an out-of-the-way place. To obviate all these disagreeable circumstances this device will be found very convenient, and the space necessary to carry it in the trunk is not great enough to inconvenience the drummer, as the shelves are provided with hinges which permit them to be folded in small space in the lid. It is easy to see that a much better display of goods can be made with the new device than with the old style of trunk, and its use should be the means of selling more goods on one trip to more than pay the cost of the new trunk.

Tool for Cutting Mortises.

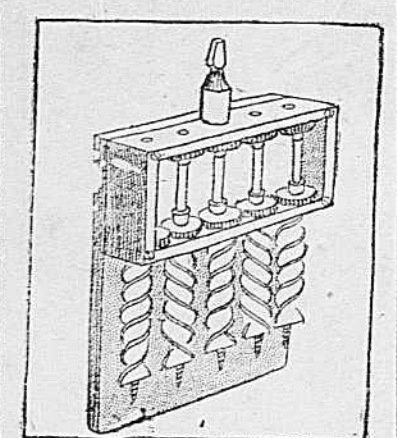
The cutting of mortises in timbers for frame buildings has hitherto been a laborious task even with the aid of the boring machine in common use for this purpose, and without the machine it is almost impossible to cut the series of holes in the straight line now required. James E. Adams, Esq., of Danvers, Mass., has designed the tool shown in the cut to replace the machine now in use, and the rapidity with which it will per-



MARINE SAFE AND LIFE BUOY.

formed through a water-tight door. At the bottom of the door is a ballast chamber which prevents overturning in a

rough sea, and to further aid in supporting the float at the top of the water a number of separate air chambers are provided around the outer edge, with ribs to distend them and lessen the liability of puncture. Around the buoy, just above the water line, a cable is suspended, and the ladder provides means to reach the outlook at the top, where a flag and bell are in use as signals. A patent on this life-saving appliance has been granted to G. F. Abraham, of Baltimore, Md.

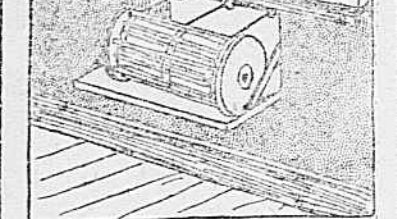


PORTABLE BOOT-BLACKING DEVICE.

the weight, allowing the foot to be raised to any desired height. To start out the rollers are placed around three sides of the foot, and in the center of the box is placed a seat for the customer, while the rear end drops down to bring the foot-rest into position. Compartments are provided for the storage of brushes, blacking, etc., and to steady the machine while in use auxiliary posts are dropped to the pavement and fastened with a catch. When the shoes are finished the operator folds up his machine and moves on to his next customer.

Automatic Burglar Alarm.

The need for a cheap and simple device for attachment to the door of a room to give immediate alarm as soon as the door knob is tried to see if the occupant of the room has forgotten to lock the door is apparent to all. Frank McManus, of Olean, N. Y., has designed the device shown in the cut for this special purpose. The alarm can be carried in a trunk and

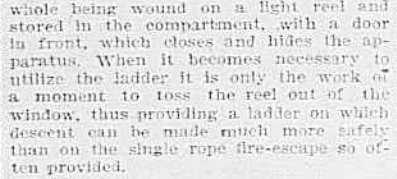


IMPROVED MORTISE MACHINE.

of the desired length by taking off one or more of the end bits.

Flexible Fire Escape.

The ladder has proven itself the most convenient fire-escape for all-around purposes, and this has led Charles Harris,



DOOR-KNOB ALARM FOR TRAVELERS.

put on the door in a few minutes. To the shank of the knob is attached a clamp to support the lower end of the burglar alarm, and at the upper end of the rod is a conical head, which engages the spring wire. The rod is held in its highest position by the coiled spring, and as soon as the knob is turned it pulls the rod down, and releases the spring, which, which instantly begins its clatter on the bell, which would frighten away the sneak thief immediately, no matter whether there was any one in the room or not.

A Plan for Unity.

Editor of The Times:

Sir:—I read the synopsis or extract of Dr. Kerr's late sermon on "Christian Union" preached at the Second Presbyterian Church. I have always felt that there should never have been a split in the church, and that the only way to maintain the unity of the church is by a union of faith for the new organization. I would suggest the "Apostles' Creed." Those were the articles of faith adopted by the Church in the Army of Northern Virginia. The members subscribed their names to the creed, and it has been written above. We had a chaplain all the time. Our Colonel of the Third Cavalry kept the chaplain with him in the same tent, and saw that he was well cared for, or, at least, did the best he could for him. We had some faithful chaplains. I now remember especially Landstreet, and Dr. Meredith, of Buckingham.

Dr. Meredith was a fine preacher and a fine man. During the whole war I never heard the question asked "To what denomination does the minister belong?"

The writer was a member of Prince Edward Cavalry, and we had Dr. Thomas White with us for six months as our chaplain. He preached to the infantry as well as the cavalry. He was an earnest as well as eloquent preacher, and every sermon had a telling effect. Dr. Burroughs, of Richmond, was another faithful preacher. I never heard of him. I heard him one Sunday just before the seven days' fight around Richmond.

Mounted on a redoubt, with from five to ten thousand men seated on the ground, he walked to the redoubt and preached "Whosoever Will."

Bishop Johns—what a preacher, and that whisper. He would send his voice cutting through the air—"Whosoever Will" Dr. Burroughs and Dr. Mitchell—"Whosoever Will."

The great barrier in the way of Christian Union is bigotry. Do away with bigotry and sectarian jealousy and the ground is occupied.

More religion is what the church wants. There was not a particle of bigotry among the old soldiers of '61-'65.

R. L. R.

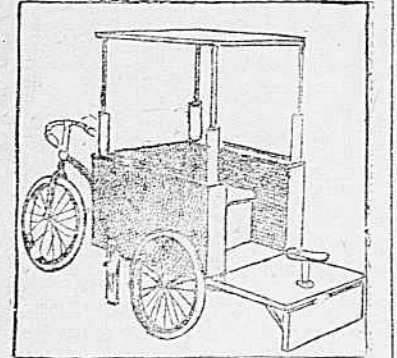
Angola, Cumberland county, Va.

1,000 GIVEN AWAY.

A Sample Copy of the Parisian Dream City FREE for Examination.

The Times has arranged to carry its readers through the Paris Exposition on a twenty weeks' journey at ten cents per week. This achievement is made possible by the wonderful photographs and photographic art and modern methods of photographic printing. Our journey is the next best thing to a personal visit. It is comprised in Twenty Photographic Portfolios of the Exposition, by the photographer, and we will send by mail only to any city or country address sample of Number One to every reader on receipt of two-cent stamps (four cents). We have arranged to give away one thousand samples on this basis, believing that when they have seen the remaining nineteen weekly numbers will be demanded on the easy conditions which we make. We delivered to the readers of The Times several thousand copies of the World's Fair portfolios, entitled "The Dream City," and the present enterprise is in line with that work, but with greatly improved art and beauty. It will enable every one to see at his home exactly what the Exposition is like. Send 4 cents in stamps and Part One will be mailed direct by the publishers. Address all letters to Portfolio Department, The Times, Richmond, Va.

With the machine illustrated herewith a bootblack can travel around the streets of the city looking for trade, instead of remaining in a fixed location and compelling his customers to come to him. This machine has been patented by H. L. Putnam, of St. Joseph, Mo., and he has so designed it that the box portion can be folded up tight to keep out the dust when the machine is on the road. The roof is suspended in posts set in sockets at the four corners, and weights and pulleys are provided to counterbalance



PORTABLE BOOT-BLACKING DEVICE.

the weight, allowing the foot to be raised to any desired height. To start out the rollers are placed around three sides of the foot, and in the center of the box is placed a seat for the customer, while the rear end drops down to bring the foot-rest into position. Compartments are provided for the storage of brushes, blacking, etc., and to steady the machine while in use auxiliary posts are dropped to the pavement and fastened with a catch. When the shoes are finished the operator folds up his machine and moves on to his next customer.

THE VIRGINIA CONSTITUTIONS.

Seven Conventions Promulgated Forms of Government.

WHAT JEFFERSON THOUGHT.

Some Lessons to be Drawn From the Deliberations of the Various Assemblies of the States' Representative Citizens.

(Written for the Times.)

There have been seven conventions in Virginia which promulgated constitutions. Two of them, known respectively as the "Wheeling" and the "Alexandria" conventions, were in no sense representative of the State at large, nor can any lessons of wisdom be learned from them. So only casual notice will be given of them in this article of the general subject. Yet, some sidelights of illustration may be drawn from their deliberations, as will appear in due course.

The real convention of the Virginia people was held in 1776, 1799-1801, 1801-1861, and 1867-1868.

CONVENTION OF 1776.

While Virginia was still a colony of Great Britain, though almost independent, her representatives met in convention at Williamsburg, then the capital, May 6, 1776. They did not meet, however, for the purpose, or even with a view, of framing a constitution. In a letter dated August 25, 1776, to John Randolph, Mr. Jefferson wrote: "I am sincerely one of those who wish for a connection with England, and would rather be in dependence on Great Britain, than on the Congress, or on the nation, or on the people, or on the nation."

Edmund Pendleton, whom Jefferson pronounced "the wisest man he ever knew," was made president, though he had no authority, and the convention was held in session at the Raleigh Tavern, then in command of the military forces of the colony.

In such stirring times there could be no thwarting of the logic of events. One of the first acts of the convention was to declare the independence of the colony. It was to open the convention with prayer. The members attended fasting-day services and in mourning, and required their families to do the same. A letter of George Mason, the illustrious author of the Virginia Bill of Rights, enjoined his family that they should attend the services in the church near his home, and that his three sons and two daughters should appear in mourning.

Surely their fathers were in earnest! The convention was opened first at 9 in the morning, and afterwards at seven, when the chaplain read prayers. The daily routine was that the members met at seven, and the prayers were over, and to remain in session till 9, when the convention assembled, and rarely adjourned till five. After dinner the committees sat again till 9 or 10 at night.

A committee was appointed to prepare a declaration of rights; it was reported the 27th, debated till June 11th, and unanimously adopted June 12th. The memorial declaration of George Mason, the Bill of Rights of Virginia, which no subsequent convention of Virginians presumed to alter or amend, except for technical corrections, and which has since been evolved the enormity of a constitution under which we now groan. And it ought to be generally known, in view of the impending convention, that a memorial declaration of George Mason, in the handwriting of George Mason, is owned by the State. It has been framed and placed on the walls of the State Library. Let us hope that our next convention will decide to give it the place of honor in the State Library.

On the 26th of June, 1776, the convention of Virginia unanimously adopted the first written constitution ever framed by an independent political society. By its terms Virginia was declared a free and sovereign State six days before the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia.

In honor of the day and the event, the 26th of June was long celebrated as Independence Day at the University of Virginia, and the Supreme Court of the State has lately formally adjudged that the "year of the Commonwealth" dates from June 26, 1776. Smoot's Building Association, Va. Virginia, 69.

It is unnecessary to discuss the government of this country, but it is interesting to know how the first constitution was framed. Every school-boy knows how patient and persistent remonstrances against the aggressions and oppressions of the Crown had been contemptuously ignored, until the colonies were almost in a state of revolution. The fathers met to confer and to devise remedies for wrongs that could not be endured.

The one remedy that remained, after every effort to reach a compromise with the British had failed, was to sever all relations with the Crown. They met the issue like patriots; and so "the first republic in America" was launched at Williamsburg, in Virginia, Saturday, June 26, 1776, and its history is the history of the Commonwealth.

Patrick Henry was elected Governor on the same day, receiving 99 votes to 45 for Thomas Nelson, and 1 for John Page. He assumed the office the following Monday, July 1st.

As is well known, the Church of England was then the "established church" in the colony. The convention gravely proceeded to eliminate from the State the influence of the British and royal family, and added this petition:

"That it may please thee to endue the Magistrates of this Commonwealth, with grace, wisdom and understanding; and that they may be able to execute the laws of this Commonwealth, and to defend the same, and to protect the people thereof in the secure enjoyment of all their rights, franchises and privileges; and will constantly endeavor that the laws and ordinances of the Commonwealth be duly observed, and that law and equity be executed in all judgments. And lastly, I do solemnly promise and swear that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, execute the said office diligently and faithfully, according to law, without favor, affection or partiality; that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the Constitution of Virginia, and the Constitution of the same, and protect the people thereof in the secure enjoyment of all their rights, franchises and privileges; and will constantly endeavor that the laws and ordinances of the Commonwealth be duly observed, and that law and equity be executed in all judgments. 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